

BOOK NOTICES

COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBAL GENETIC RESOURCES. 1993. **Managing Global Genetic Resources. Agricultural Crop Issues and Policies.** (ISBN 0-309-04430-8, hbk.). National Academy of Sciences Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, (202) 334-3180. \$49.95. 449 pp., 6 × 9.

"Managing Global Genetic Resources. Agricultural Crop Issues and Policies examines the structure that underlies efforts to preserve genetic material, including the worldwide network of genetic collections, the role of biotechnology, and a host of scientific, institutional, legal, economic, and political issues that surround management and use. The Executive Summary, with the committee's major recommendations; an Overview, which introduces the subject for those readers without a background in genetic conservation; and two parts. Part one addresses basic science issues and entails Chapters 1 to 10. Part two addresses policy issues and entails Chapters 11 to 15." The 15 chapters are: 1) Genetic Vulnerability and Crop Diversity; 2) Crop Diversity: Institutional Responses; 3) In Situ Conservation of Genetic Resources; 4) The Science of Collecting Genetic Resources; 5) The Science of Managing Genetic Resources; 6) Using Genetic Resources; 7) Biotechnology and Germplasm Conservation; 8) Documentation of Genetic Resources; 9) The Conservation of Genetic Stock Collections; 10) The Genetic Resources of Microorganisms; 11) Exchange of Genetic Resources: Quarantine; 12) Exchange of Genetic Resources: Proprietary Rights; 13) Genetic Resources: Assessing Economic Value, 14) Conflicts Over Ownership, Management, and Use; and 15) National and International Programs.

PRIMACK, RICHARD B., 1993. **Essentials of Conservation Biology.** (ISBN 0-87893-722-6, hbk.). Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, Massachusetts 01375, U.S.A. 564 pp.

This elegant text provides a well-organized and comprehensive summary of the primary issues as well as the biological and economic principles involved in the new discipline of conservation biology. The text opens with concise discussions of the origins of the discipline and definitions of key terms. Concluding chapters review the applications of conservation biology principles to problems of the effective management of habitat and remnant reserves as well as human dominated lands and degraded lands to be restored.

Essentials of Conservation Biology will be useful in undergraduate introductory courses. Abundant use is made of interesting worldwide case examples in the narratives as well as in side boxes. The frequent figures are clear and well-selected to illustrate the narrative. Lists of suggested readings are provided at the end of each chapter. Talented teachers of conservation biology, who usually represent a wide interdisciplinary background and deep personal commitment, will find this text an important foundation upon which to customize their courses. —*Lawrence D. Ford.*